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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,671	10/15/2003	Dieter Eckardt	ECKARDT-5	7049

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EXAMINER	
CAO, PHUONG THAO	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2164	

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/685,671	ECKARDT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phuong-Thao Cao	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 October 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-5* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-5* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 October 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/5/04 & 12/9/05*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to Application filed on 10/685,671.

2. Claims 1-5 are pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. Information disclosure statements (IDS) filed by Applicant on 02/05/2004 and 12/09/2005 were received and considered. Copies of reviewed IDS(s) are enclosed with this office action.

Priority

4. This Application claimed the priority of a foreign application GERMANY 102 52 109.3 (11/08/2002). A certified copy of Germany application 102 52 109.3 has been received and reviewed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okamoto (US Patent No 5,754,531).

As to claim 1, Okamoto teaches:

"A method for parameterizing an apparatus" (see Abstract, [column 11, lines 45-65] and [column 16, lines 35-67] wherein sending a transmission demand, for instance "Drive the wiper", is equivalent to Applicant's "parameterizing an apparatus"), comprising the steps of:

"inputting a dataset having at least one parameter with a data input device that is connected with the apparatus via a datalink, the dataset including at least one parameter number and a parameter value" (see [column 16, lines 35-67] and [column 17, lines 1-40] wherein node A is equivalent to Applicant's "data input device", nodes B, C, D and E are equivalent to Applicant's "apparatus", communication frame is equivalent to Applicant's "dataset" and bus line is equivalent to Applicant's "datalink"; see [column 13, lines 30-45] and Fig 4 wherein communication frame is equivalent to Applicant's "dataset" wherein destination address indicating destination of transmission is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter number" and transmission data sequence indicating a data area to transmit is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter value");

"transmitting the inputted dataset to the apparatus" (see [column 16, lines 65-67] and [column 17, lines 1-3 and 30-40]);

"acknowledging receipt of the transmitted dataset" (see Abstract and [column 13, lines 45-50]);

"checking that the acknowledged dataset is identical to the inputted dataset" (see [column 13, lines 50-55], [column 18, lines 45-67] and [column 19, lines 1-17] wherein return data sequence is equivalent to Applicant's "acknowledged dataset" and transmission data sequence is equivalent to Applicant's "inputted dataset"); and

"releasing the received dataset if the acknowledged dataset is identical to the inputted dataset" (see [column 17, lines 10-15] and [column 19, lines 18-40] wherein outputting data which are processed as effective as disclosed is equivalent to releasing the received dataset as illustrated in Applicant's claim language).

As to claim 2, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Okamoto teaches:

"decomposing each received dataset into the parameter number and parameter value" (see [column 20, lines 1-15] wherein converting reception data into parallel data is equivalent to decomposing each received dataset as illustrated in Applicant's claim language);

"separately storing the parameter number and parameter value at a memory address determined from the parameter value" (see [column 20, lines 15-25] and [Fig. 9, item 304 and 305 wherein data stored in self address register is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter number" and data stored in area 304c of reception buffer register is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter value", also see [column 15, lines 10-30]); and

"combining the dataset of a received parameter to be acknowledged from its stored parameter number and the parameter value stored at the determined memory address" (see [column 15, lines 45-55] wherein address signal is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter number" and reception data is equivalent to Applicant's "parameter value"; also see Fig. 8 for a communication frame format).

As to claim 3 this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Okamoto teaches:

"wherein acknowledging receipt includes inverting a bit pattern of a received dataset and checking that the acknowledged dataset is identical to the inputted dataset includes inverting the inverted bit pattern again" (see [column 19, lines 53-65], [column 20, lines 45-67] and [column 21, lines 1-25] wherein returning reception data is equivalent to Applicant's "acknowledging receipt").

As to claim 4, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Okamoto teaches:

"wherein checking that the acknowledged dataset is identical to the inputted dataset includes a visual check" (see [column 18, lines 45-65]] wherein data in the return data buffer register is equivalent to Applicant's "acknowledged dataset" and data in the transmission buffer

register is equivalent to Applicant's "inputted dataset" and see Fig. 9 for a visual check by comparing bit value in two registers).

As to claim 5, this claim is rejected based on arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

Okamoto teaches:

"wherein checking that the acknowledged dataset is identical to the inputted dataset includes an automatic check" (see [column 18, lines 45-67] wherein data in the return data buffer register is equivalent to Applicant's "acknowledged dataset", data in the transmission buffer register is equivalent to Applicant's "inputted dataset" and the comparison operation of the comparison portion is equivalent to Applicant's "automatic check").

7. The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Suzuki (US Patent No 5,991,840) teaches a computer expansion unit with circuitry for reliable communication. When a first expansion unit in a computer sends data on an auxiliary bus directly to a second expansion unit, the second expansion unit sends the same data directly back to the first expansion unit. If the data sent back are not identical to the data originally sent, the first expansion unit generates an error signal.

Gray, III et al. (US Patent No 6,546,430) teach a method for negotiating optimum parameters in a system of interconnected components. Each parameter set is expressed as a list of constraints on allowable values or ranges of values.

Takai et al. (US Patent No 5,077,670) teach system and method applicable to vehicles for communicating between data processing stations. The master station transmits a control command (parameter set command) to the selected control unit to perform a predetermined control operation. The selected control unit return an echoback signal to the master station to inform the master station of the receipt of the control command.

Kawashima (US Patent No 6,105,054) teaches a multi-point-to-point conferencing system comprising a plurality of terminals connect by a network including data and control channels and displayed connection confirmation window.

Yoshida (Japan Publication 03-105649) teaches inverting all bits of transmitting data and reinverting all bits of receiving data.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong-Thao Cao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2735. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (Mon - Fri).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTC

April 4, 2006

Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2167